

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 XMB-02 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 /111 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: EB/OT/TA:RMEYER:DGRIMMER

APPROVED BY: EB/OT/TA:WGBARRACLOUGH

EUR/RPE:RBRESTLER

TREAS:COUELETTE

COMMERCE:DSLAGHT

STR:DWHITNACK

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R 110004Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USDEL MTN GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - O M I S S I O N L I N E T H R E E P A R A T W O

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON COLOR TV SETS

REF: ROME 12975

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF DETAILS ON HOW THE QTE VISA UNQTE REQUIREMENT WILL OPERATE AND WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE APPLIED, WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME JUDGE WHETHER IT VIOLATES THE GATT. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOI CASTS THE REQUIREMENT AS A HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURE DESIGNED TO SAFEGUARD CONSUMERS, IT COULD BE LEGAL UNDER THE GATT PROVIDED SIMILAR REQUIREMENTS ARE IMPOSED ON DOMESTIC PRODUCERS. IF THE QTE VISA UNQTE IS SIMPLY AN IMPORT LICENSE DESIGNED TO DELAY IMPORTATION OF TVS, IT MAY VIOLATE ART. XI PROVISIONS ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS.

2. US TRADE INTERESTS WILL NOT BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE GOI ACTION, AS WE EXPORT NO COLOR TVS TO ITALY. AS EMBASSY POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, SUBSIDIARIES OF US FIRMS DO MANUFACTURE COLOR TVS IN EUROPE, AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO SUFFER FROM ITALIAN RESTRICTIONS. US FIRMS ARE ALSO IMPORTANT SUPPLIERS OF SEMI-CONDUCTORS AND INTEGRATED CIRCUITS WHICH ARE INCORPORATED IN SETS MANUFACTURED BY EUROPEAN FIRMS. THUS, THE US COULD SUFFER SOME INDIRECT DAMAGE FROM IMPOSITION OF ITALIAN RESTRICTIONS, THOUGH THE DAMAGE WOULD BE MOST DIFFICULT TO QUANTIFY.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO CONTINUE TO FOLLOW SITUATION AND REPORT ON GOI ACTION WHEN DETAILS ARE MADE AVAILABLE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN INFORMALLY ON HOW IMPORTERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY JAPANESE, ARE REACTING TO THE MEASURE. IN GENERAL, WE BELIEVE GOVERNMENTS MORE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY GOI ACTION SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN CHALLENGING IT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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